

REFINER AND AGITATING APPARATUS FOR PAPERMAKING

Background of the Invention and Related Art Statement

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a refiner and an
agitating apparatus for papermaking, and especially, it relates
to a refiner and an agitating apparatus for papermaking, which
are provided with both a conical type and a disc type.

[0002] A refiner is used for separating and beating or
10 dissociating a raw material by allowing the raw material to pass
through a gap or space between a rotor and a stator, and there
are a conical type refiner in which a portion with a blade is a
conical shape, and a disc type refiner in which a portion with a
blade is a disc shape.

15 [0003] As compared with the disc type refiner, a residence or
operation time of the raw material in the conical type refiner
tends to be longer. Also, the blade of the conical type refiner
has a complicated shape, so machining thereof is difficult. Thus,
in many cases, the blade is used as cast, and a dimensional
20 accuracy of a clearance or gap between the rotor and the stator
is not so good.

[0004] On the other hand, the disc type refiner is easy to be
machined as compared with the conical type refiner, and a
dimensional accuracy of the gap between the rotor and the stator
25 is good. These types have both advantages and disadvantages,
respectively, and there have been no refiners having both the
conical type and the disc type.

[0005] The present invention has been made in view of the
foregoing, and an object of the invention is to provide a refiner
30 with advantages of both the conical type and the disc type.

[0006] Further objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of the invention.

Summary of the Invention

5 [0007] To achieve the above object, a first aspect of the present invention provides a refiner, comprising: a conical type stationary shell including a beating section; a stationary ring-shaped disc provided on an outer edge of the conical type stationary shell and including a beating section; a conical type
10 rotor attached to a rotational shaft and including a beating section on a surface facing the conical type stationary shell; and a ring-shaped rotor disc provided on an outer edge of the conical type rotor and including a beating section on a surface facing the conical type stationary shell. The beating section of
15 the conical type rotor is opposed to that of the conical type stationary shell to thereby form a gap therebetween. The beating section of the rotor disc is opposed to that of the stationary disc to thereby form a gap therebetween. A material is allowed to pass through the gap between the beating sections.

20 [0008] Also, according to a second aspect of the invention, in the refiner according to the first aspect of the invention, the beating sections of the stationary shell and the rotor disc are at least machined.

[0009] According to a third aspect of the invention, in the
25 refiner according to the first aspect of the invention, the stationary disc is attached separately from the conical type stationary shell parallel to a longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft.

[0010] According to a fourth aspect of the invention, in the
30 refiner according to the first aspect of the invention, the

conical type rotor is attached to the rotational shaft, and rotor disc is attached separately from the conical type rotor parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft.

5 [0011] According to a fifth aspect of the invention, in the refiner according to the first aspect of the invention, the conical type stationary shell is divided into at least an upstream section and a downstream section with respect to a material flow, and the conical type rotor is divided into at least an upstream section and a downstream section with respect to the material flow. Then, the upstream section of the beating section of the conical type stationary shell is opposed to the upstream section of the beating section of the conical type rotor, and the downstream section of the beating section of the conical type stationary shell is opposed to the downstream section of the beating section of the conical type rotor.

10 [0012] Also, a sixth aspect of the invention provides an agitating apparatus for papermaking, comprising: a conical type stationary shell including an agitating section; a stationary ring-shaped disc provided on an outer edge of the conical type stationary shell and including an agitating section; a conical type rotor attached to a rotational shaft and including an agitating section on a surface facing the conical type stationary shell; and a rotor ring-shaped disc provided on an outer edge of the conical type rotor and including an agitating section on a surface facing the conical type stationary shell. The agitating section of the conical type rotor is opposed to that of the conical type stationary shell to thereby form a gap therebetween. The agitating section of the rotor disc is opposed to that of the stationary disc to thereby form a gap therebetween. A material is allowed to pass through the gap between the agitating sections.

[0013] According to a seventh aspect of the invention, in the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the sixth aspect of the invention, the agitating sections of the stationary disc and the rotor disc are at least machined.

5 [0014] According to an eighth aspect of the invention, in the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the sixth aspect of the invention, the stationary disc is attached separately from the conical type stationary shell parallel to a longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft.

10 [0015] According to a ninth aspect of the invention, in the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the sixth aspect of the invention, the conical type rotor is attached to the rotational shaft, and the rotor disc is attached separately from the conical type rotor parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft.

15 [0016] According to a tenth aspect of the invention, in the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the sixth aspect of the invention, the conical type stationary shell is divided into at least an upstream section and a downstream section with respect to a material flow, and the conical type rotor is divided into at least an upstream section and a downstream section with respect to the material flow. Then, the upstream section of the agitating section of the conical type stationary shell is opposed to the upstream section of the agitating section of the conical type rotor, and the downstream section of the agitating section of the conical type stationary shell is opposed to the downstream section of the agitating section of the conical type rotor.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0017] Fig. 1 is a schematic sectional view of a refiner, i.e. an agitating apparatus for papermaking, of an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic enlarged sectional view showing a beating or dissociating section shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a schematic enlarged sectional view of a stationary shell at one side of the beating section in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a schematic side view of the stationary shell in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a schematic enlarged sectional view showing a part of the stationary disc in Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is a schematic enlarged sectional view showing the condition that the stationary disc shown in Fig. 5 is moved;

Fig. 7 is a schematic enlarged sectional view of a rotor on the other side of the beating section in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 8 is a schematic side view of the rotor in Fig. 7.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

[0018] A refiner and an agitating apparatus for papermaking of an embodiment of the invention will be explained with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0019] In Fig. 1 to Fig. 8, reference A denotes a refiner, and the refiner A is schematically formed of a stationary shell S and a rotor R. Reference numeral 1 denotes a material supply passage, and a screw feeder 2 is formed in the material supply passage 1. A rotational shaft 21 of the screw feeder 2 is rotated by a transmission of a rotation of a motor 3 thereto through a chain 4 (refer to Fig. 1).

[0020] The stationary shell S includes a conical type stationary shell S_c and a ring-shaped stationary disc S_p as shown

in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. The conical type stationary shell S_c is provided with a beating or dissociating section on a surface facing the rotor. The ring-shaped stationary disc S_D is provided on an outer edge of the conical type stationary shell S_c and includes a beating section on the surface facing the rotor. The beating section becomes an agitating section when the refiner is used as an agitating apparatus for papermaking, for example, a disperser.

[0021] The beating section of the conical type stationary shell S_c is formed of projections T_s as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. Incidentally, instead of the projections T_s shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, for example, grooves may be formed on a conical surface of the conical type stationary shell S_c , and the beating section may be formed of ribs formed between the adjacent grooves. A plurality of projections T_s is provided, and shapes of the projections T_s become smaller toward downstream of the material flow.

[0022] Also, the conical type stationary shell S_c is divided into two sections, namely S_{c1} and S_{c2} , and they are disposed at upstream and downstream of the material flow, respectively. They are attached to a first casing C_1 by bolts 6 and 6'. Incidentally, although the conical type stationary shell S_c is divided into the upstream section S_{c1} and the downstream section S_{c2} in the embodiment, the present invention is not limited thereto, and the conical type stationary shell S_c may be divided into three, or more. It will suffice that the conical type stationary shell S_c is divided into at least the upstream section S_{c1} and the downstream section S_{c2} .

[0023] Also, as shown in Fig. 1, Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, the stationary disc S_D is attached to the conical type stationary

shell S_c to be freely moved thereto in parallel to a longitudinal direction of a rotational shaft 7 of the rotor R. This is because of the following reason. Suppose the stationary disc S_D is moved with the stationary shell S_c . When a gap or space between a conical type rotor R_c and the conical type stationary shell S_c is adjusted by moving the conical type rotor R_c along the rotational shaft 7, the gap or space between the stationary disc S_D and a rotor disc R_D is also changed, so that the gap between the stationary disc S_D and the rotor disc R_D can not be adjusted separately. On the contrary, if the stationary disc S_D is independently attached to the conical type stationary shell S_c parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft 7, the gap between the conical type rotor R_c and the conical type stationary shell S_c and the gap between the stationary disc S_D and the rotor disc R_D can be adjusted separately.

[0024] Although the attachment of the stationary disc S_D to the conical type stationary shell S_c may be automatically achieved by oil pressures or the like, in the embodiment, for example, the attachment can be achieved manually as follows (refer to Fig. 5 and Fig. 6).

[0025] Reference numeral 8 denotes a cylinder body having a male screw 81 on an outer periphery thereof, and the male screw 81 respectively engages a female screw C_f provided in a casing C_1 , and a nut 9. Reference numeral 10 denotes a washer, which is located between the casing C_1 and the nut 9. A bolt 11 passes through a through hole of the cylinder body 8, and is projected from the cylinder body 8 shown as reference numeral 11_M .

[0026] The stationary disc S_D and a disc holder 12 are attached to the male screw 11_M projected from the cylinder body 8 by means of a female screw of the stationary disc S_D and a female

screw of the disc holder 12, and a gap section 13 is formed between the disc holder 12 and the casing C_1 .

5 [0027] In order to further reduce the gap between the stationary disc S_D and the rotor disc R_D in the state shown in Fig. 5, the nut 9 and the bolt 11 are loosened, and the cylinder body 8 is rotated clockwise to move forward as shown in Fig. 6. Then, the disc holder 12 is pushed by a distal end of the cylinder body 8, to thereby move the stationary disc S_D and the disc holder 12. After moving the stationary disc S_D and the disc
10 holder 12, the loosened nut 9 and the bolt 11 are tightened.

15 [0028] Also, in order to return to the state of Fig. 5 from the state of Fig. 6, the nut 9 and the bolt 11 are loosened, and the cylinder body 8 is rotated counterclockwise to retreat or move backward as shown in Fig. 5. Accordingly, a rear end of the cylinder body 8 pushes the bolt 11, to thereby move the stationary disc S_D and the disc holder 12. After moving the stationary disc S_D and the disc holder 12, the loosened nut 9 and bolt 11 are tightened. Incidentally, plural sets of the cylinder
20 body 8, the nut 9, the washer 10 and the bolt 11 are provided annularly on the casing C_1 . Also, as shown in Fig. 4, for example, the beating section of the stationary disc S_D is formed of short and long ribs T_s' that define grooves and are formed between the adjacent grooves.

25 [0029] The rotor R has the conical type rotor R_c and a ring-shaped rotor disc R_D , as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. The conical type rotor R_c is provided with a beating section on a surface facing the stationary shell S. The ring-shaped rotor disc R_D is provided on an outer edge of the conical type rotor R_c and includes a beating section on the surface facing the stationary

shell S. The beating section becomes an agitating section when the apparatus is used as an agitating apparatus like a disperser.

[0030] The beating section constitutes projections T_R as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8. Incidentally, instead of the projections T_R as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, for example, grooves may be formed on a conical surface of the conical type rotor R_C , and ribs formed between the adjacent grooves may form the beating section. A plurality of projections T_R is provided, and shapes of the projections T_R become smaller toward downstream of the material flow.

[0031] Then, the beating section of the conical type refiner A is formed of the projections T_s and the projections T_R described above, and a passage formed by the gap between the projection T_s and the projection T_R becomes smaller toward downstream of the material flow side.

[0032] The rotor R is attached to the rotational shaft 7 rotated by the motor (not shown). Reference numeral 15 denotes a bearing case that includes a bearing for supporting the rotational shaft 7 therein (refer to Fig. 1).

[0033] The conical type rotor R_C is divided into two sections, namely R_{C1} and R_{C2} , disposed at upstream and downstream of the material flow in the beating section, respectively. They are attached to a rotor main body R_B by bolts 16 and 16'. Incidentally, although the conical type rotor R_D is divided into the upstream section R_{C1} and the downstream section R_{C2} in the present embodiment, the present invention is not limited thereto, and for example, may be divided into three or four. However, it will suffice that the conical type rotor R_C is divided into at least the upstream section R_{C1} and the downstream section R_{C2} .

[0034] Then, the upstream section S_{c1} and the downstream section S_{c2} of the conical type stationary shell S_c are opposed to the upstream section R_{c1} and the downstream section R_{c2} of the conical type rotor R_c , respectively.

5 [0035] The ring-shaped rotor disc R_d is disposed on the outer edge of the conical type rotor R_c , and attached to the rotor main body R_B by a bolt 16".

[0036] Incidentally, as shown in Fig. 8, the beating section of the rotor disc R_d comprises short and long ribs T_R' that form
10 grooves. Also, like the stationary disc S_d independently attached to the conical type stationary shell S_c parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft 7, although not shown in the drawings, the rotor disc R_d may be attached to the conical type rotor R_c independently to be freely moved thereto
15 parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft 7. A casing C_2 covers the rotor R . Reference numeral 20 denotes a discharge outlet.

[0037] As described above and shown in the drawings, in the refiner A, the conical type stationary shell S_c is opposed to the
20 conical type rotor R_c , and the stationary disc S_d is opposed to the rotor disc R_d . The raw material passes through the gap between the conical type stationary shell S_c and the conical type rotor R_c , and between the stationary disc S_d and the rotor disc R_d .

[0038] Before operating the refiner 1, the gap in the beating
25 section is adjusted. In order to adjust the gap in the beating section between the conical type stationary shell S_c and the conical type rotor R_c , when the machine is stopped, the rotor R and the bearing case 15 slide along the rotational shaft 7 toward the stationary disc S_d side until the beating section of the
30 conical type rotor R_c contacts the beating section of the conical

type stationary shell S_c . Also, the nut 9 and the bolt 11 are loosened, and the cylinder body 8 is rotated clockwise to move forward as shown in Fig. 6 so that the distal end of the cylinder body 8 pushes the disc holder 12. When the beating section of the stationary disc S_D contacts the beating section of the rotor disc R_D , the nut 9 and the bolt 11 are tightened. Starting from this point, the beating section of the rotor disc R_D is moved backward to a predetermined appropriate position, and the rotor disc R_D is fixed to the rotational shaft 7 by fixing means (bolt, oil pressures or the like), not shown.

[0039] Incidentally, after fixing, if the gap between the beating section of the stationary disc S_D and the beating section of the rotor disc R_D is still not appropriate, the nut 9 and the bolt 11 are loosened, and the cylinder body 8 is rotated clockwise or counterclockwise to adjust the position thereof so that an appropriate gap is obtained. After adjusting the gap, the loosened nut 9 and the bolt 11 are tightened.

[0040] After adjusting the gap in the beating section, when the refiner 1 is operated, the raw material is supplied to the beating section through the material supply passage 1 and the screw feeder 2. While the raw material is passing through the gap between the rotor R and the stationary shell or stator S , the separation and beating of the material are carried out, to thereby be led to the next step through the discharge outlet 20.

[0041] Incidentally, upon beating the raw material, since the beating section of the stationary disc S_D and the beating section of the rotor disc R_D are provided, the gap in the beating section between them can be narrowed. Accordingly, it is difficult for the material to pass therethrough, resulting in resistance against the material flow, so the raw material can be charged in

a higher degree. Namely, the material can be retained for longer period of time in the gap between the conical type stationary shell S_c and the conical type rotor R_c .

[0042] Incidentally, it is desirable that at least the beating sections of the stationary disc S_D and the rotor disc R_D are machined because of the following reason.

[0043] Since "the conical type stationary shell S_c with the beating section" and "the conical type rotor R_c with the beating section" are generally formed of cast steel, and the shapes thereof are conical, it is difficult to machine the beating sections thereof to improve dimensional accuracy thereof. However, the gap between the stationary disc S_D and the rotor disc R_D can be adjusted with high accuracy, and the gap becomes the resistance in the raw material flow. Accordingly, the raw material can be held for longer period of time in the gap between the conical type stationary shell S_c and the conical type rotor R_c , and fibers in the raw material are further crumpled with each other and dissociated.

[0044] Incidentally, it is obvious that the refiner A in the embodiment described above can grind a chip, or beat and crumble a pulp, and moreover, the refiner A can be used as an agitating apparatus for papermaking (for example, a disperser), which agitates a wastepaper material in order to facilitate an separation of adhesives, such as ink and hot-melt, from the fiber in the wastepaper material. In this case, the raw material is a wastepaper pulp.

[0045] When wastepaper pulp with a high concentration is dispersed in the disperser, the beating section described above works as an agitating section, and the fibers in the wastepaper pulp are strongly worn out in the agitating section. Accordingly,

ink stuck to the fibers can be peeled off, fractionated or comminuted, and dispersed, and the adhesive is peeled off, fractionated, and dispersed, to thereby facilitate a process to eliminate ink in the subsequent steps.

5 **[0046]** Incidentally, since the refiner has the same structure as that of the agitating apparatus for papermaking except that the beating section of the refiner A described above forms the agitating section of the agitating apparatus for papermaking, the explanation for the agitating apparatus for papermaking is
10 omitted herewith.

[0047] According to the refiner of the first aspect of the invention, by providing the beating sections of the stationary disc and the rotor disc, a resistance in the raw material flow is created, and the raw material is held in the gap in the beating
15 sections for longer period of time, so that the fibers in the raw material can be further crumpled with each other and dissociated.

[0048] Also, since "the conical type stationary shell with the beating section" and "the conical type rotor with the beating section" are formed of cast steel, and the shapes thereof are
20 conical, it is difficult to machine the beating sections to improve the dimensional accuracy thereof. However, according to the refiner of a second aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the invention according to the first aspect, the gap between the machined beating sections of the stationary disc
25 and the rotor disc can be adjusted with higher accuracy, so that the gap becomes resistance in the material flow more efficiently. Accordingly, the material can be held for a longer period of time in the gap between the beating sections of the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor, and the fibers in

the material can be further crumpled with each other and dissociated.

[0049] If the stationary disc can not be moved separately from the conical type stationary shell, when the conical type rotor is moved along the rotational shaft to adjust the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc is determined accordingly, thus, the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can not be adjusted independently. However, according to the refiner of a third aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the first aspect of the invention, since the stationary disc is independently attached to the conical type stationary shell parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft, the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell and between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can be individually adjusted.

[0050] If the rotor disc can not be moved separately from the conical type rotor, when the conical type rotor is moved along the rotational shaft to adjust the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc is determined accordingly, so that the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can not be adjusted independently. However, according to the refiner of a fourth aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the first aspect of the invention, since the rotor disc is independently attached to the conical type rotor parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft, the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell and between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can be individually adjusted.

[0051] According to the refiner of the fifth aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the first aspect of the invention, the extent of damages in the beating sections can be different in the upstream section and the downstream section of the material flow with time. Also, depending on a site damaged by foreign substances, it may not be necessary to replace the entire beating section. In that case, since the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor are respectively divided into at least the upstream section and the downstream section of the material flow, only the damaged section needs to be replaced without replacing the entire beating section. Since the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor are divided, it is easy to manufacture them. Incidentally, the beating section of the conical type stationary shell and the beating section of the conical type rotor are difficult to manufacture, normally, due to their large sizes.

[0052] According to the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the sixth aspect of the invention, since the agitating section of the stationary disc and the agitating section of the rotor disc are provided, they cause resistance in the raw material flow. Thus, the raw material can be held for a longer period of time in the gap between the agitating sections of the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor, so the fibers in the material can be further crumpled and agitated.

[0053] Also, since "the conical type stationary shell with the agitating section" and "the conical type rotor with the agitating section" are formed of cast steel, and the shapes thereof are conical, it is difficult to machine the agitating sections to improve the dimensional accuracy thereof. However, according to the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the seventh aspect of

the invention, in addition to the effect of the sixth aspect of the invention, the gap between the agitating sections of the stationary disc and the rotor disc can be adjusted with higher accuracy, and the gap becomes resistance in the raw material flow more effectively. Accordingly, the raw material can be held for a longer period of time in the gap between the agitating sections of the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor, and the fibers in the raw material can be further crumpled with each other and agitated.

10 [0054] If the stationary disc can not be moved separately from the conical type stationary shell, when the conical type rotor is moved along the rotational shaft to adjust the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc is determined accordingly, so the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can not be adjusted independently. However, according to the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the eighth aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the sixth aspect of the invention, since the stationary disc is independently attached to the conical type stationary shell parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft, the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, and between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can be individually adjusted, respectively.

25 [0055] If the rotor disc can not be moved separately from the conical type rotor, when the conical type rotor is moved along the rotational shaft to adjust the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc is determined accordingly, so the gap between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can not be

adjusted independently. However, according to the agitating apparatus for papermaking of the ninth aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the sixth aspect of the invention, since the rotor disc is independently attached to the conical type rotor parallel to the longitudinal direction of the rotational shaft, the gap between the conical type rotor and the conical type stationary shell, and between the stationary disc and the rotor disc can be individually adjusted.

[0056] According to the agitating apparatus of the tenth aspect of the invention, in addition to the effect of the sixth aspect of the invention, the extent of damages in the beating sections may be different in the upstream section and the downstream section of the material flow with time. Also, depending on a site damaged by foreign substances, it may not be necessary to replace the entire beating section. In that case, since the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor are respectively divided into at least the upstream section and the downstream section of the material flow, only the damaged section needs to be replaced without replacing the entire beating section. Since the conical type stationary shell and the conical type rotor are divided, it is easy to manufacture them. Incidentally, the beating section of the conical type stationary shell and the beating section of the conical type rotor are difficult to manufacture, normally, due to their large sizes.

[0057] While the invention has been explained with reference to the specific embodiments of the invention, the explanation is illustrative and the invention is limited only by the appended claims.